IN THE CLAIMS:

Please consider the following claims:

1. (currently amended) In a feedback equalizer device implementing a filter unit performing convolution operations between filter coefficients and one of a plurality of original discrete digital level values for generating a filter output, a multiplier device for multiplying a discrete digital level value with a filter coefficient for said convolution operation, said device comprising:

decoder device for receiving ~~a~~ and decoding an encoded, discrete digital level value to be multiplied with ~~said~~ a filter coefficient, and implementing logic for generating control signals according to said digital level value;

a first sub-multiplication circuit receiving said filter coefficient and implementing logic for multiplying said filter coefficient by +1/-1 or zero (0) in accordance with a first set of control signals and generating a first intermediate multiplication output result therefrom;

a second ~~first~~ sub-multiplication circuit simultaneously receiving ~~said~~ a number and implementing logic for multiplying said filter coefficient by +1/-1 or zero (0) in accordance with a second set of control signals and generating a second intermediate output result therefrom;

a third sub-multiplication circuit for shifting bits to effect a multiplication of one of said first or second intermediate output result with a discrete digital value different than any of said original plurality of discrete digital level values, and generating a third intermediate result; and~~,~~

an accumulator device for adding the results of said third and the other of said first or second intermediate results to obtain a final multiplication result~~, whereby said final multiplication result of said number with said original discrete digital level value is achieved at a greater speed with less redundancy~~.

2. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said decision feedback equalizer is implemented in a communication system for processing signals in accordance with a ATSC (8-VSB) DTV standard, said plurality of original discrete digital level values comprising: +7/-7, +5/-5, +3/-3, and +1/-1 and represented as a three (3)-bit code signal.

3. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said third sub-multiplication circuit shifts bits to effect a multiplication of one of said first or second intermediate output result with a discrete digital value of four (4) or eight (8) in accordance with said control signals.

4. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said first and second sub-multiplication circuit comprises an inverter circuit.

5. (currently amended) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said multiplier device includes an inverter circuit ~~is~~ implemented as an XOR circuit.

6. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said accumulator device comprises a carry save adder device for generating sum and carry results.

7. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said accumulator device further comprises a ripple adder device for adding said sum and carry results.

8. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said ripple adder device receives one or more said control signals for bit correcting bits when a multiplication by –1 is performed according to a first or second control signal step.

9. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 6, further including register for storing a filter output result for use in said convolution operation, said accumulator device further adding a stored filter output result with a final multiplication result of a current iteration.

10. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, further including device for encoding an original discrete digital level bit value as a set of bits.

11. (currently amended) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said ~~determined~~ number is an error signal resulting from a recursive decision feedback filter operation.

12. (currently amended) Method for performing multiplication in a decision feedback equalizer device implementing a filter unit for performing convolution operations between filter coefficients and one of a plurality of original discrete digital level values, said method comprising:

a) decoding ~~a~~ an encoded, discrete digital level value to be multiplied by a filter coefficient, and implementing logic for generating control signals according to said digital level value;

b) performing two parallel operations, each operation including multiplying said filter coefficient by either +1/-1 in accordance with said control signals for generating two intermediate results, and, corresponding operations for multiplying a corresponding intermediate result by +1 or zero (0) in accordance with a control signals and generating respective first and second intermediate output results in parallel;

c) shifting bits to effect a multiplication of one of said first and second intermediate output result with a discrete digital value different than any of said original plurality of discrete digital level values, and generating a third intermediate result; and,

d) adding the results of said third and the other of said first or second intermediate results to obtain a final multiplication result~~, whereby said final multiplication result of said filter coefficient with said original discrete digital level value is achieved at a greater speed with less redundancy~~.

13. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said decision feedback equalizer is implemented in a communication system for processing signals in accordance with a ATSC (8-VSB) DTV standard, said plurality of original discrete digital level values comprising: +7/-7, +5/-5, +3/-3, and +1/-1 and represented as a three (3)-bit code signal.

14. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said shifting step ~~d)~~ c) includes the step of shifting bits to effect a multiplication of one of said first or second intermediate output result with a discrete digital value of four (4) or eight (8) in accordance with said control signals.

15. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said first multiplication steps circuit comprises performing an inversion of said filter coefficient to be multiplied.

16. (original) The method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein steps b) and c) are performed simultaneously.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 13, further including the step of storing a filter output result in a register for use during said convolution operation in said filter, said adding step ~~e)~~ d) including adding said stored filter output result with a final multiplication result of a current iteration to obtain a new filter output value.

18. (currently amended) A multiplier device for multiplying one of a set of discrete digital level values with a filter coefficient comprising:

decoder device for receiving ~~a~~ and decoding an encoded, discrete digital level value to be multiplied and generating control signals according to said digital level value;

inverter circuit providing two parallel operations, each operation including multiplying ~~said determined~~ a number by either +1/-1 in accordance with said control signals for generating two intermediate results;

multiplier circuit receiving said two intermediate results and providing respective parallel operations for multiplying a corresponding intermediate result of said inverter circuit by +1 or zero (0) in accordance with a control signals and generating respective further intermediate results;

logic circuit for shifting bits of one further intermediate result to effect a multiplication of one said further intermediate output result with a discrete digital level value different than any of said original plurality of discrete digital level values; and,

an accumulator device for adding the results of said logic circuit shift multiplication with the other said further intermediate output result to obtain a final multiplication result.

19. (original) The multiplier device as claimed in Claim 18, for use in a filter device for performing a convolution operation in an adaptive feedback equalizer implemented in a communication system for processing signals in accordance with a ATSC (8-VSB) DTV standard, wherein said plurality

of original discrete digital level values comprising: +7/-7, +5/-5, +3/-3, and +1/-1 and said discrete digital level values different than any of said original plurality of discrete digital level values include four (4) and eight (8) in accordance with said control signals.